

# CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

**SLAVE OF THE LIVING HELL**

**THE VAMPIRE'S FATE**

**WITHIN THE  
TOMB OF  
TERROR**

**WINGS OF  
DARKNESS**

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TALES OF THE  
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# CHILLING

## TALES OF HORROR

DECEMBER 1970

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7



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All who entered the ghastly house of hell were fated to endure the half-death of eternal despair

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He was just an average guy. But in his hands, fate placed the future and the safety of the entire world

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He willingly entered the half-world of blood, pain and suffering, risking his immortal soul itself, in order to save the girl he loved

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The furnace of the damned waited to claim them. Only a supernatural force could prevent them from becoming the devil's servants, forever

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# WITHIN THE TOMB OF TERROR

ON MANY A RAW AND WINDY NIGHT, A TRAVELER IN NEED OF SHELTER HAS PAUSED AT THE STARING DOORWAY OF **STORMWAY HALL**...AND WITH A SHUDDER, HAS HURRIED ON! FOR THE OLD MANOR HELD MORE THAN MEMORIES AND THE ANCIENT ECHOES OF RUSTLING BROCADE AND CLANGING ARMOR--IT KNEW AN EVIL THAT COULD NEVER DIE--HARBORED IN

**THE TOMB OF TERROR!**



GATE ONE NIGHT---AT AN OLD ENGLISH INN---

I'VE GOT REASONS FOR WANTING TO SPEND A FEW MORE DAYS HERE---BUT ACCORDING TO THIS ANTIQUE MAP, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE PLACE OF INTEREST IN THE DISTRICT! AND SINCE THERE'S STILL PLENTY TO SEE BEFORE I RETURN TO THE STATES NEXT WEEK---I'D BETTER CHECK OUT IN THE MORNING!



SUDDENLY---

THAT SOUNDS LIKE NANCY! I CAN'T GUESS WHAT SHE WANTS---BUT A WALK IN THE MOONLIGHT WILL MAKE IT A LOT EASIER TO SAY GOODBYE!



DOCTOR! DOCTOR!



HELLO THERE!  
I DON'T REMEMBER  
MEETING YOU!

DOCTOR---YOU'VE  
GOT TO COME TO  
STORMWAY HALL!  
HURRY---HURRY!

AS JIM DARTS INTO HIS  
ROOM...

BLAZES! NANCY  
PROMISED SHE'D KEEP  
MY SECRET---AFTER I  
TOLD HER HOW MUCH  
I NEEDED A REST FROM  
THESE EMERGENCY  
CALLS!

SECONDS LATER... MY GOSH---SHE  
COULDN'T HAVE  
HURRIED OFF THAT  
FAST---BUT WHERE  
IS SHE?

JIM---I  
HEARD VOICES!  
IS ANYTHING  
WRONG?

JUST A GIRL WANTING HELP IN A  
HURRY! LOOK, HONEY---DID YOU  
TELL ANYONE I'M A DOCTOR?

NOT A WORD, JIM---  
HONESTLY! BUT LET  
ME GO ALONG ---  
THERE MAY BE  
SOMETHING I  
CAN DO!

ANYWAY, JIM---I HOPE IT WON'T BE A  
**SHORT TRIP!** I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T  
SAY IT---BUT I WANT TO SPEND  
EVERY MOMENT I CAN WITH  
YOU!

THAT GOES  
FOR ME TOO,  
NANCY! BUT  
COME TO THINK  
OF IT---HOW FAR  
IS STORMWAY  
HALL?

STORMWAY HALL!  
STOP THE CAR, JIM  
---YOU CAN'T  
GO THERE!

WHAT'S THE ANGLE? I  
WASN'T LOOKING FOR  
A PATIENT---BUT I  
CERTAINLY CAN'T BACK  
OUT NOW!

NANCY  
---WAIT!

IF YOU MUST GO TO STORMWAY  
HALL, JIM---IT'S A MILE UP THE  
NEXT CROSS ROAD! BUT I COULDN'T  
BEAR SETTING FOOT IN THE PLACE---  
NOT EVEN WITH YOU!

SOON AFTERWARD...

THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE --- AND I DON'T JUST MEAN THE WAY IT **LOOKS**! HOW'D THAT GIRL HAPPEN TO KNOW I'M A DOCTOR---AND HOW COME AN ANCIENT STRUCTURE LIKE **THIS** ISN'T SHOWN ON THE OLD MAP BACK AT THE INN?



THEN---STANDING OUT AGAINST THE SHADOWED MASS OF STONE---

THAT PATCH OF LIGHT WASN'T THERE A SECOND AGO --- AND IT'S **GROWING**...**SWIRLING** INTO A DEFINITE SHAPE!



YE GODS--- THAT'S THE GIRL WHO CAME TO THE INN! BUT SHE ISN'T **ALIVE**... SHE'S THE GHOST OF SOMEONE WHO DIED CENTURIES AGO!



I CAN SEE NOW WHY NANCY YOU COULD HAVE DREADED STORMWAY HALL! SAVED THE OLD CARE-TAKER, EVEN AFTER HE DIED --- BUT IT'S TOO LATE! THEY'RE COMING FOR HIM --- ANY SECOND --- **AND YOU MUSTN'T GO IN!**



HOLD IT! BEFORE YOU VANISH AGAIN---YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME SOME EXPLANATION! I CAN SENSE SOMETHING SINISTER HERE---WHAT IS IT?

THE TOMB OF TERROR! GO BACK... GO BACK!



AS THE GHOSTLY FIGURE FADES INTO THE DARKNESS...

THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON WHY SHE WOULDN'T WAIT LONG ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHO **THEY** ARE---**FEAR**! AND WHEN A **HOST** IS AFRAID--- I'M INTERESTED IN LEARNING **WHY**!



GUESS THAT'S THE CARETAKER! THOSE CANDLES HAVEN'T BEEN BURNING LONG --- SO HE MUST HAVE DIED JUST A FEW MINUTES BEFORE I GOT HERE!



AS JIM MAKES A ROUTINE EXAMINATION...

FOOTSTEPS! THEY'RE SCUTTLING ALONG THE CORRIDOR...AND WHATEVER THEY ARE...THOSE MUTTERING VOICES AREN'T ANYTHING HUMAN!

Then...

GREAT GUNS!

ANOTHER CORPSE IN STORMWAY HALL!

ANOTHER TOMB AWAITS OUR CALL!



A BODY PLACED WITHIN OUR TOMB...BECOMES LIKE US A FIEND OF DOOM!

THAT'S WHAT THE GHOST MEANT WHEN SHE SAID I COULD HAVE SAVED THE OLD MAN AFTER HE DIED! SHE WAS HOPING I'D AT LEAST GET HERE IN TIME TO PREVENT THIS!

WELL, YOU CREEPS...I'M STILL TAKING A STAB AT IT!



Then...WITH THE UNHOLY STRENGTH OF THINGS BEYOND THE GRAVE...



AS THE FIENDS MOVE OFF WITH THEIR GRISLY BURDEN...

ROOF AND ROOM SHALL HUMANS OWN... BUT THE VAULT OF STORMWAY IS OURS ALONE!

THOSE MONSTERS HAVE SOME KIND OF CLAIM ON THIS PLACE...AND I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I LEARN WHAT IT IS!

SUDDENLY...STABBING THE DARKNESS WITH AN EERIE GLOW...

THERE'S ANOTHER LIGHT...AND IT'S MOVING! I'M TAKING A BIG CHANCE...BUT IT COULD BE THE GHOST...TRYING TO LEAD ME SOMEWHERE!



A MOMENT LATER--ALONG A CORRIDOR RANK WITH MUSTY ODOR---

BUT AS THE UNCANNY GLOW HOVERS OVER THE MASSIVE BOLTS...

THAT CAN'T BE THE PLACE! THOSE OLD LOCKS LOOK AS IF THEY HAVEN'T BEEN OPENED FOR CENTURIES-- AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF A KEY!

GREAT GUNS! NOTHING UNLOCKED THOSE HASPS--BUT THEY'VE POPPED OPEN!

CLANK!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--THIS IS THE KIND OF CHAMBER FORMERLY USED FOR BLACK MAGIC! THAT LIGHT'S TAKING SHAPE AGAIN-- SHE'LL GIVE ME THE ANSWER!

Then...IN A FLASH BRIMMING WITH EVIL...

CRRRAK!

HA-HA! DID YOU EXPECT HER...WHOSE ANCESTORS BURNED ME AS A SORCERER CENTURIES AGO? I CURSED THEIR CASTLE AND THE VAULT WITHIN WHICH THEY LAID ME...TURNING IT INTO A TOMB OF TERROR!

YOU'RE NOT SCARING ME--BUT I'M CURIOUS! HOW COME "TOMB OF TERROR?"

THAT WAS MY REVENGE ON THEM! THE SPIRITS OF THOSE WHO DIED AFTER ME, AND WERE LAID WITHIN THE VAULT--I CHANGED THEM INTO FEARSOME FIENDS, OBEYENT TO MY WILL!

IN FEAR, THE LOCAL PEASANTRY HAS AVOIDED STORMWAY HALL, AND WILL NOT EVEN MARK IT ON A MAP! THE GIRL WHOSE GHOST YOU SAW... SHE WANDERED INTO THE TOMB OF TERROR, SAW MY FIENDS--AND FAINTED! AND HER PARENTS ENTOMBED HER THERE--IN THE CURSED VAULT--THINKING SHE WAS DEAD!

SHE STRUGGLED HELPLESSLY IN THOSE STIFLING CONFINES BEFORE HER FINAL GASP... BUT THAT WAS HER SALVATION--THE FIENDS COULD NOT CLAIM A SPIRIT THAT HAD BEEN ENTOMBED ALIVE!

BUT THE FIENDS STILL WAIT TO CARRY BODIES  
INTO THE **TOMB OF TERROR**... THE BODIES OF  
CARETAKERS TOO OLD TO KNOW FEAR... THE BODIES  
OF FOOLS LIKE **YOU**!

HATE TO DISAPPOINT  
YOUR JABBERING FRIENDS  
---BUT I'M NOT THE TYPE  
THAT CAN BE **SCARED**  
TO DEATH!

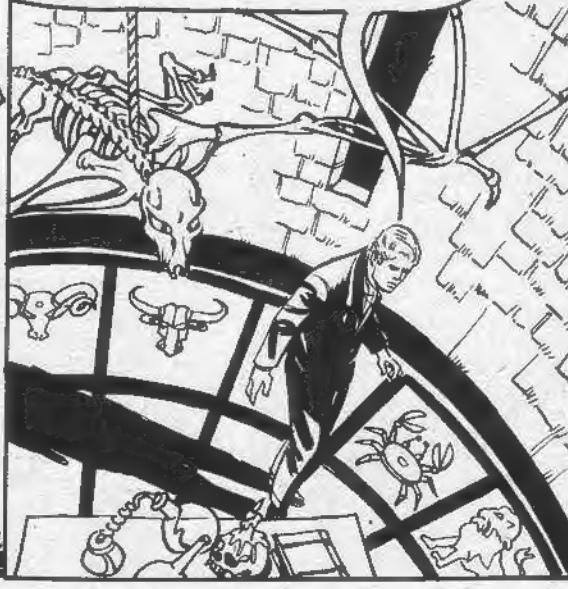
PERHAPS NOT... BUT  
HOW LONG WILL IT  
TAKE YOU TO  
**STARVE?**



**JIM LUNGES**...AN INSTANT TOO LATE!



THAT CREEP HAD THE RIGHT IDEA... A PERSON **COULD** STARVE IN A TRAP  
LIKE THIS! BUT THERE'S ONE THING HE'S  
FORGETTING... **THAT GIRL ISN'T EVIL**... SHE'S SURE TO HELP ME!



**MINUTES LATER...**



I'VE NEVER DARED GO IN BEFORE  
---BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT JIM...  
**I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!**

GOOD LORD...  
IT'S NANCY!  
AND THOSE  
THINGS...  
**WATCH OUT!**



WE SPARE NONE...WE CLAIM ALL  
WHO COME TO DIE IN STORMWAY HALL!

OHH!



THOSE FIENDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE INTERESTED ONLY IN THE **DEAD**! THAT MEANS THEY'D HAVE ONLY ONE REASON FOR DRAGGING NANCY TO THE **TOMB OF TERROR** ... THEY PLAN TO KILL HER!



SUDDENLY---FLOODING THE MUSTY CHAMBER WITH A THROBBING LIGHT...

THIS TIME ... IT **MUST** BE HER! IF THERE'S ANY WAY TO HELP NANCY ... IT'S GOT TO COME FROM THE **BEYOND**!



I TRIED TO WARN YOU! NOW THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO ... THE FIENDS HAVE A LIVING HOSTAGE ... **SOMEONE WHO WILL DIE HORRIBLY IF I INTERFERE!**

BUT CAN'T YOU SEE THAT NANCY WILL BE DOOMED **ANYWAY** ... UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING? WE'VE GOT TO TAKE A CHANCE ... AND GET HER OUT OF THE **TOMB OF TERROR**!



Then ... WITH A LIGHT TOUCH OF THE GHOSTLY FINGERS...

I CAN HELP YOU ESCAPE ... FROM **HERE**! BUT ONCE YOU ENTER THE VAULT, YOU WILL BE IN THE UNHOLY PLACE WHERE **THEY** RULE ... **YOU WILL BE AT THEIR MERCY!**



MOMENTS LATER ... IN THE MURKY DEPTHS OF STORMWAY HALL ...

THERE IS WHAT YOU SEEK ... THE **TOMB OF TERROR**! BUT BEFORE YOU ENTER ... MAKE SURE YOU CAN FACE WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE!

IT WON'T MATTER! I'LL FACE ANYTHING ... FOR HER SAKE!



YE GODS ... NANCY!

CRREAK!

SHE CAN'T BE DEAD! NOT IN A SPOT LIKE THIS ... CRAWLING WITH THINGS THAT WILL HOLD HER SPIRIT FOREVER!

HA HA HA!



WHEN---FILLING THE DANK CHAMBER WITH THE STIFLING TOUCH OF EVIL---

DO YOU THINK ANYONE LEAVES THE TOMB OF TERROR **ALIVE**? SHE HAS FAINTED, AS ANOTHER VICTIM FAINTED CENTURIES AGO---BUT THIS TIME WE WILL NOT BE CHEATED! THIS TIME HER SPIRIT WILL BE **OURS**... BECAUSE SHE WILL BE KILLED BEFORE SHE IS SEALED IN HER WAITING TOMB!

THAT'S GOING TO BE A BIG ORDER, CREEPS! TRY IT... AND FIND OUT!

SUDDENLY---AS THE GAPPING WALL BRISTLES WITH A NEW HORROR---

THE FIENDS! IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS... THEY'LL BE SWARMING ALL AROUND ME!

*Pow!*



IN THE NEXT INSTANT---

NOW OUR VICTIMS SHALL BE TWO!

THE FIRST IS HER... THE SECOND YOU!



...JIM RUSHES FROM STORMWAY HALL --- WITH THE DREAD PURSUITERS CLOSING IN...



THEN... AS A RUDDY GLARE MOUNTS ABOVE THE STARK WALLS...

THANK HEAVEN THEY'VE STOPPED... I CAN'T GO MUCH FURTHER!

FIENDS... LOOK! SHE'S AT THE WINDOW... LAUGHING... LAUGHING AGAINST THE FLAMES!



THE TOMB OF TERROR... OUR ONLY REFUGE... IT'S BEING PURGED BY FIRE!



FOR A MOMENT, FAINT LAUGHTER RINGS ABOVE THE ROARING FLAMES... AND THEN STORMWAY HALL COLLAPSES INTO A SEETHING SHELL!

THIS ENDS THE CURSE OF THE TOMB OF TERROR, JIM---BUT I'LL ALWAYS SHUDDER WHENEVER I PASS THESE JAGGED, BLACKENED WALLS!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PREVENT THAT, HONEY! SUPPOSE YOU NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN---SUPPOSE I ASK THE QUESTION THAT'S BEEN ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE---SUPPOSE WE LEAVE FOR THE STATES TOGETHER?



THE END!

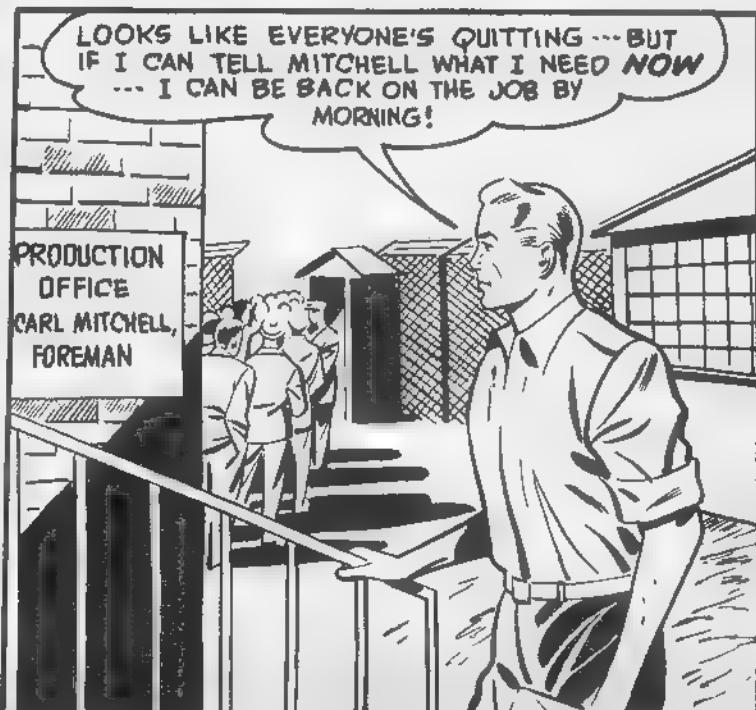
# ONE AGAINST DEATH

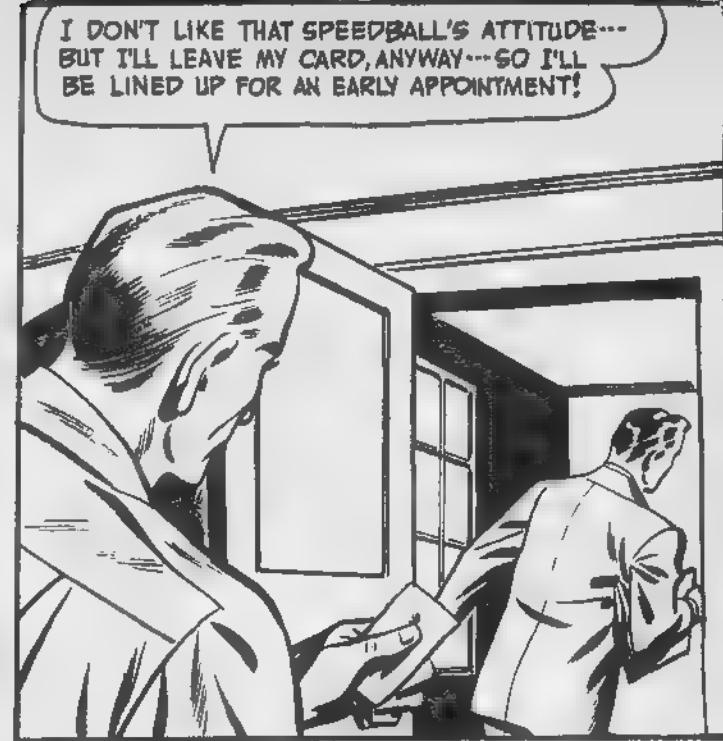


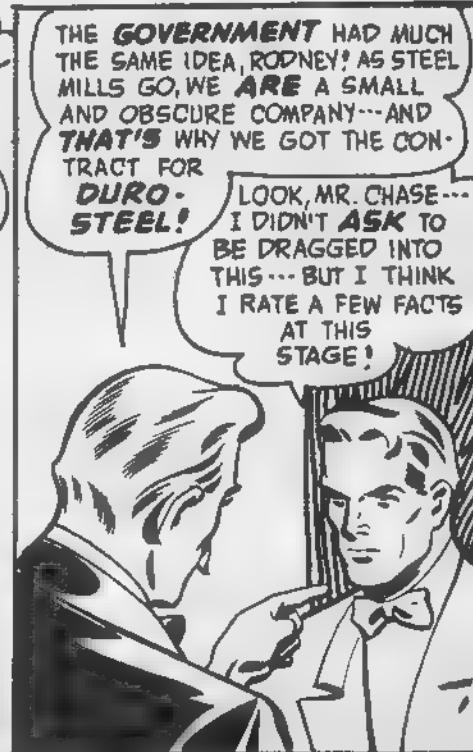
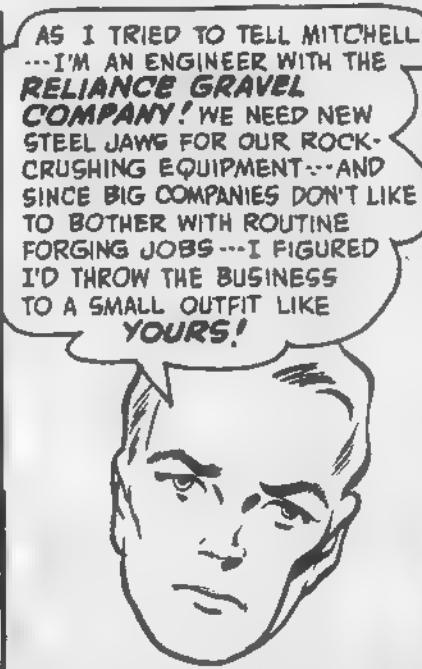
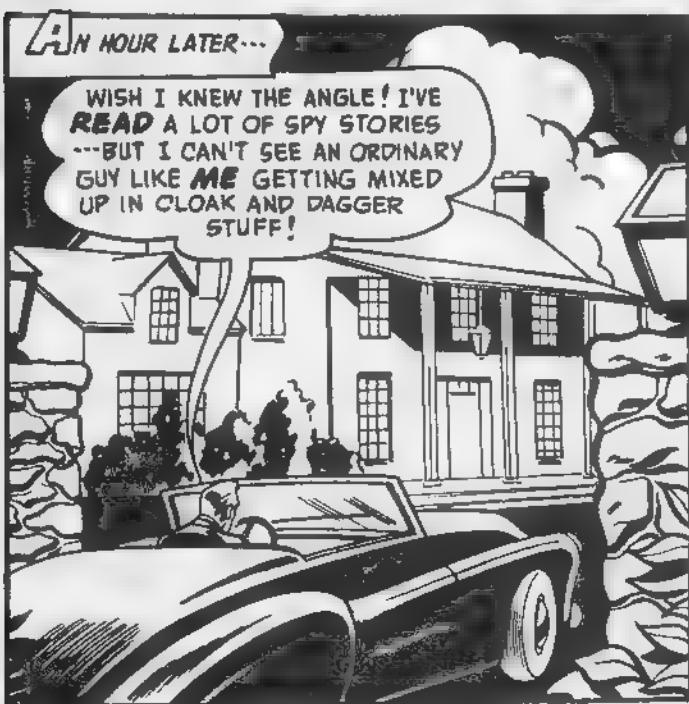
STEVE RODNEY DIDN'T WANT A FIGHT WITH ANYBODY...BUT THAT WAS BEFORE A STRANGE FLUKE GOT HIM NECK DEEP IN A COMMUNIST PLOT! THEN HE WAS UP AGAINST A SAVAGE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL--THE KIND OF HARD-HITTING COUNTER-ATTACK AN AMERICAN CAN WAGE WHEN HE FINDS HIMSELF MARKED FOR DEATH!



HOPE I HAVEN'T REACHED THE EMPIRE STEEL PLANT TOO LATE...I WAS COUNTING ON SEEING THE FOREMAN TODAY!







TO BEGIN ... YOU REMEMBER THE TROUBLE OUR TANKS RAN INTO IN VIET NAM!

SURE ! THEY WERE STOPPED COLD BY A NEW GUN DEVELOPED BY THE REDS --- FIRING A PROJECTILE THAT CAN PIERCE ANY TYPE OF ARMOR !

ANY TYPE EXCEPT DURESTEEL --- THE HARDEST AND TOUGHEST ALLOY EVER PRODUCED ! SINCE IT CAN WITHSTAND BOMBS, SHELLS, AND TORPEDOES --- YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT WILL MEAN TO DEFENSE ONCE WE'RE OUT OF THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE ! MEANWHILE --- OUR LITTLE-KNOWN PLANT WAS CHOSEN FOR PILOT PRODUCTION TO ENSURE SECRECY !

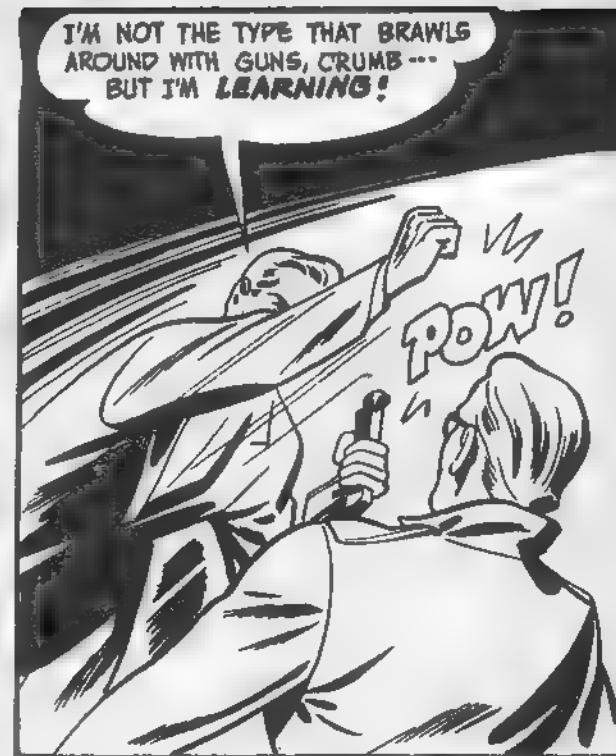


AND NOW WHAT ?

IT'S HARD TO SAY WHAT MITCHELL WAS UP TO ... BUT WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES ! MURIEL ... YOU'D BETTER PHONE THE F.B.I. !

STAY WHERE YOU ARE ! GET THE BAG, SKULKOV !





O.K. ....YOU'VE GOT THE DURosteel! But do you realize how tough it's going to be to hide a fifty-pound ingot---once every cop and federal agent in the country has been alerted?

AND WHAT ABOUT A FEW OUNCES OF POWDERED DURosteel ... JUST ENOUGH FOR ANALYSIS BY SOVIET SCIENTISTS?

THAT'S QUITE AN ASSIGNMENT, BUSTER... WHEN'D YOU FIGURE OUT THE METHOD?

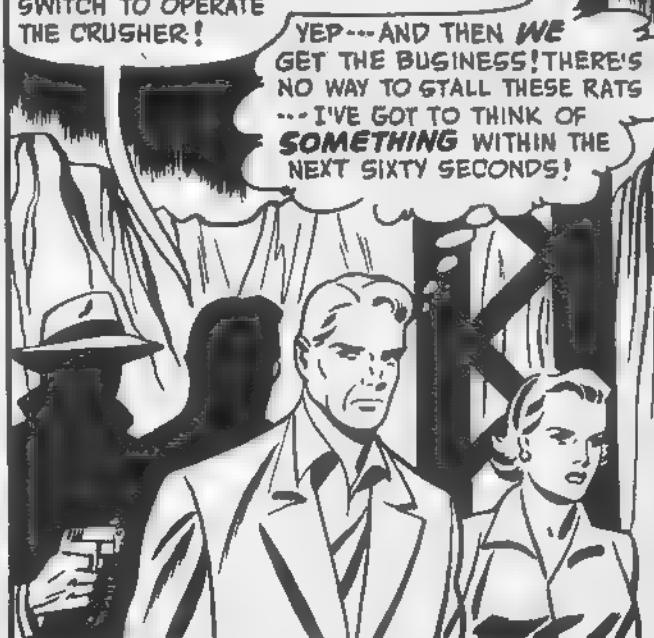
TONIGHT... WHEN WE SEARCHED MITCHELL'S DESK TO SEE IF HE'D LEFT ANY PAPERS! ISN'T THIS YOUR CARD, RODNEY---DOESN'T YOUR COMPANY OPERATE ROCK-CRUSHING EQUIPMENT? DURosteel was made to resist impact---but a twenty-ton machine won't have any trouble pulverizing it!



SOON AFTERWARD...



YOU'RE GOING TO DO JUST ONE THING, RODNEY---AND THAT'S SHOW US THE SWITCH TO OPERATE THE CRUSHER!



A MOMENT LATER...

COME HERE, BUD! THE CRUSHER NEEDS TWO SWITCHES CLOSED AT THE SAME TIME---AND I CAN'T REACH BOTH OF 'EM!

JUST IN CASE YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING SMART ---WE'LL LET THE GIRL DO IT!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS COUNTING ON, RAT!

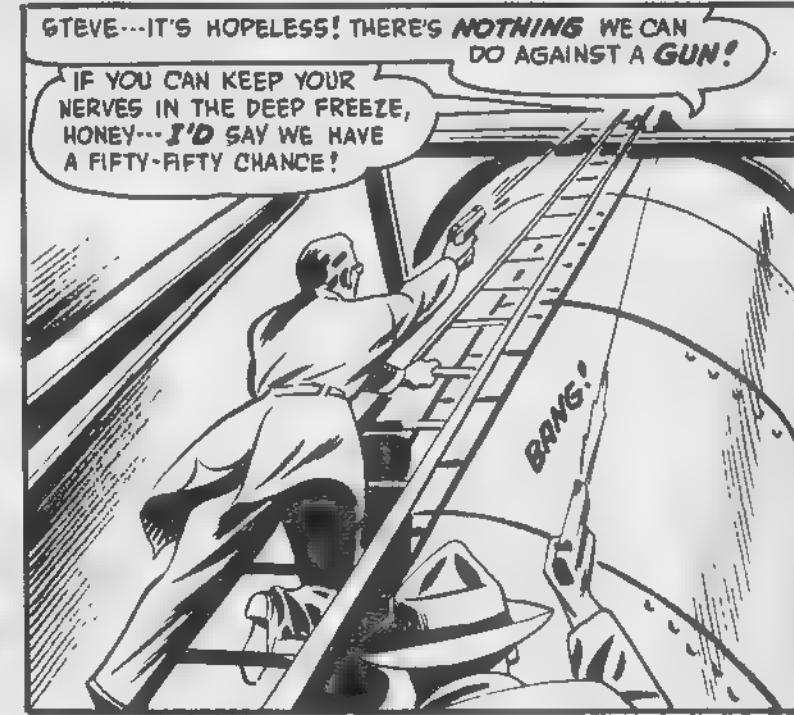


Then...AS THE CABLE RISES...

LET'S GO, SWEETHEART!

FOOL...YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF A PERFECT TARGET!







YEP... AND I DON'T  
WANT HIS CARCASS  
AROUND THE PLACE  
WHERE I WORK!  
GET BUSY!



THE BITE OF A VAMPIRE MEANS SOMETHING NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE---A RAW HORROR THAT MAKES EVERY NERVE IN THE VICTIM'S BODY TWITCH AT THE CREEPING APPROACH OF MIDNIGHT! BUT IT'S A HORROR THAT DOESN'T STOP AT BEING FELT---IT'S A THING THAT GROWS AND GROWS---IT'S THE TOUCH OF JAGGED WINGS UNFOLDING FOR



AT THE HOME OF MARCIA SANDERS---

BILL---IT WAS HORRIBLE! FOR A MOMENT, I COULDNT BELIEVE WHAT I SAW WHEN I SWITCHED ON THE NIGHT LIGHT---THOSE THINGS THAT FLUTTERED AS HE APPROACHED THE BED---THOSE BLACK WINGS!

HONEY---I WANT YOU TO TRY TO REMEMBER ONE DETAIL! HOW CLOSE DID HE APPROACH --- WAS HE NEAR ENOUGH TO TOUCH YOU?

NO, BILL---I'M SURE OF THAT! HE STOPPED ABOUT A YARD AWAY---HIS EYES GLINTED IN A WAY THAT MADE ME SHIVER---AND THEN HE SPOKE! "A VICTIM LIKE YOU SHOULD BE SAVED FOR THE HAUNTED HOUR OF MIDNIGHT! AT THE NEXT DARK STROKE OF TWELVE---I WILL RETURN!"



THAT'S TONIGHT, BILL! AND I KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHERE I GO---OR HOW MUCH I TRY TO HIDE---

HELL FIND ME! YEP---A VAMPIRE CAN SENSE THE PRESENCE OF HIS CHOSEN VICTIM! BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THAT CLOSET JUST A FEW FEET AWAY--- WHILE I OCCUPY THE BED!

WHAT NIGHT---AT THE LAST HOLLOW STROKE OF TWELVE---

BILL---CAN YOU HEAR THOSE SOFT, PADDING FOOT-  
STEPS? HE'S COMING!



NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, MARCIA---DON'T LET HIM KNOW YOU'RE THERE! I'M GOING TO PULL THE SHEET OVER MY FACE---AND TRY TO GRAB HIM WHEN HE STALKS CLOSE ENOUGH!

LIKE A THROTTLED GASP, THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN---AND IN THE BROODING HALF LIGHT---

ANH! SHE SLEEPS---BUT TONIGHT I WILL MAKE SURE SHE DOES NOT AWAKEN---UNTIL MY FANGS HAVE MARKED HER FOR THE VAMPIRE'S FATE!

Then---WITH THE JAGGED WINGS TWITCHING AT THE THOUGHT OF PREY---

SLUMBER---SLUMBER! DO NOT WAKE UNTIL MY VICTIM I CAN TAKE!

YE GODS---THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT VOICE THAT'S MADE ME POWERLESS! I THOUGHT I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO FIGHT HIM OFF---BUT I CAN'T EVEN MOVE!

HEAVENS---WHY DOESN'T BILL DO SOMETHING? THOSE GLEAMING FANGS---THEY'RE GETTING CLOSE TO HIS ARM...



AS MARCIA'S SCREAM RINGS THROUGH THE ROOM---

HAA! NOW SHE KNOWS WHOSE VOICE SHE HEARD---AND THE MEANING OF TWO CRIMSON GASHES ON HER WRIST!

OHH!

OH, BILL! I'D RATHER HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM MYSELF--- THAN WATCH THAT!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED NOW, MARCIA---BUT FOR THE LOVE OF PETE---DON'T LET THE VAMPIRE KNOW! IF WE CAN KEEP HIM THINKING YOU'RE THE VICTIM---WE MAY FIND A WAY OF DEALING WITH HIM! COME ON---THE FRONT DOOR'S LOCKED---HE CAN'T GET OUT!





MEANWHILE... SINCE THE VAMPIRE THINKS YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS BITTEN... HE'LL PROBABLY RETURN **HERE** TO CHECK THE RESULTS! WE'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO SLEEP BY DAY, MARCIA... BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO STAY **AWAKE** FOR THE NEXT SEVEN NIGHTS... JUST TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING THAT CREEP HAS IN MIND!

IT'S BILL DRIVES HOME IN THE GREY DAMPNESS OF DAWN...

VAMPIRES AREN'T ACTIVE BY DAY... SO IT'LL BE OKAY TO LEAVE MARCIA ALONE! BUT THERE'S ONE BIG QUESTION MARK I DIDN'T WANT TO ALARM HER ABOUT... WHAT WILL THE CURSE OF THOSE FANGS DO TO ME?

TWO NIGHTS LATER...

HONEY... IT WAS JUST A TRIFLE! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!

I'M BEGINNING TO LOOK FORWARD TO THESE MIDNIGHT VIGILS, DARLING! BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT PAIN YOU HAD IN YOUR SHOULDERS LAST EVENING... DID IT GO AWAY?

AS FOR THIS CLOAK, IT'S JUST A WHIM... SO THAT'S **ANOTHER** THING WE NEEDN'T DISCUSS!

BILL... WHAT'S WRONG? SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU... AND YOU'RE TRYING TO COVER UP!

YOUR SHOULDERS! GOOD HEAVENS, BILL... I CAN FEEL SOMETHING... **LIKE LITTLE BRITTLE WINGS!**

THEY'LL GROW! I WAS HOPING YOU WOULDN'T FIND OUT, MARCIA... BUT IT'S HAPPENING... JUST AS THOSE BATS **SAID** IT WOULD!

THE VAMPIRE'S SURE TO RETURN... AND ONE GLANCE WILL SHOW HIM **YOU'RE** NOT THE VICTIM! ALL HE'LL HAVE TO DO IS REPEAT THAT SPELL... AND THEN I'LL BE THE ONE WHO WATCHES!

IT WON'T HAPPEN, BILL... IT **CAN'T**! I'VE GOT ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS LOCKED... **THERE'S NO WAY FOR HIM TO GET IN!**

MAYBE NOT **HIM**... BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE BATS? LISTEN TO THAT RUSTLING... **THEY'RE COMING DOWN THE CHIMNEY!**

BILL... TRICKING THE VAMPIRE WAS **YOUR IDEA**! WE CAN **STILL** DO IT... IF WE'RE **BOTH WEARING CAPES**!

REMEMBER, BILL... I'M THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN BITTEN! IF I CAN PUT ON A CONVINCING ACT... MAYBE THE VAMPIRE WON'T LOOK TO SEE IF I'M REALLY GROWING WINGS!



FOR A SECOND... THE SQUEAKING CREATURES MERGE IN A CLOT OF HORROR!



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME? WASN'T THE AGONY OF YOUR FANGS BAD ENOUGH... WITHOUT THESE MONSTRous THINGS SPROUTING FROM MY BACK?



HA HA! YOU'RE BOUND TO FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT THEM NOW... WHEN THEY'RE SO STUNTED... SO USELESS! BUT WAIT UNTIL THE SEVENTH NIGHT... WHEN THEY'RE LARGE ENOUGH FOR YOUR FIRST FLIGHT... THE FLIGHT THAT WILL MAKE YOU A VAMPIRE!

OKAY--LAUGH! BUT IF THERE'S A WAY TO SEND YOU BACK TO THE Ooze OF PERDITION... I'M WARNING YOU-- I'LL FIND IT!

THEN START LOOKING FOR THE BLOOD OF ANOTHER VAMPIRE... BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT CAN KILL ME!



IF I SHOULD ACCIDENTALLY VICTIMIZE ONE OF MY OWN KIND... THEN I'D DIE THE INSTANT ITS BLOOD MIXED WITH MY OWN! BUT THINK OF HOW FEW VAMPIRES THERE ARE IN THE WORLD--THINK OF HOW CAREFULLY I CHOOSE MY VICTIMS--DO YOU STILL HOPE TO SAVE THE GIRL?



IN A SURGE OF RAGE...

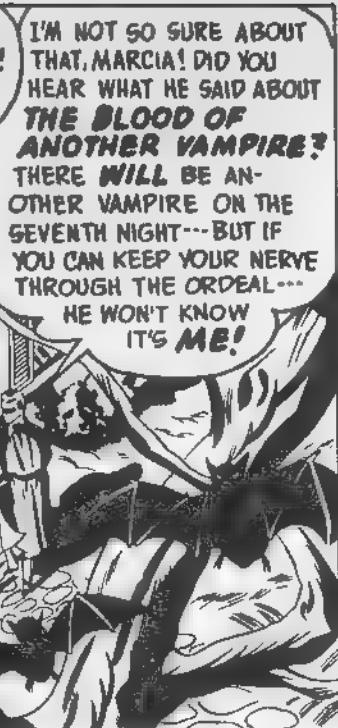
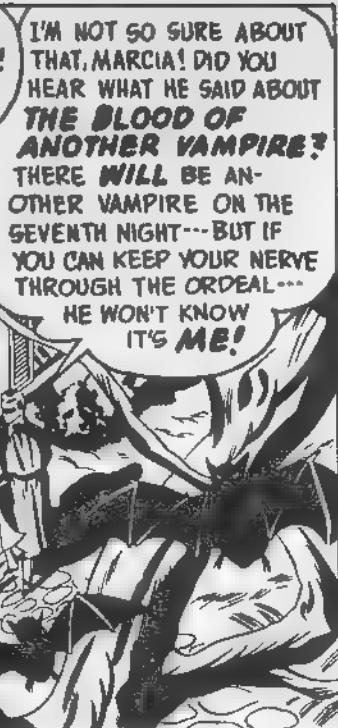
YOU BLACK-HEARTED DEMON... I WISH I COULD DO IT THIS WAY!



ALMOST IN THE SAME SECOND...

BILL... HE'S UNDERGOING ANOTHER CHANGE!





SOMEWHERE IN THE GULF OF DARKNESS...

IT'S NEARLY MIDNIGHT... IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE MY UNHEARD SUMMONS BRINGS HER HERE! SHE'LL BE EXPECTING **ME**... BUT WHAT A SURPRISE **THEY** WILL BE!



AT THE LAST THUDDING STROKE OF TWELVE...

I... I CAN'T WAIT, MARCIA! I'M IN THE GRIP OF SOME KIND OF EVIL FORCE... SOMETHING THAT STIFLES ME LIKE A BLACK WEIGHT... **UNLESS I KEEP MOVING IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION!**



MILES BEYOND... IN A FOREST WHERE THE TREES LOOM LIKE STRICKEN WRAITHS...

I'M THE ONE THE VAMPIRE WILL BE INTERESTED IN, BILL! I'LL TRY TO GO THROUGH WITH IT

BECAUSE I'M SURE YOU'LL HIT UPON A WAY TO SAVE US!

THERE IS A WAY, HONEY... BUT IT'LL MEAN KEEPING UP THE DECEPTION TO THE LAST POSSIBLE SECOND! IF THE VAMPIRE SUSPECTS ANYTHING BEFORE THEN...

WE'LL BOTH BE DOOMED!



Then... REARING FROM THE DARKNESS...

HERE'S THE PLACE, MARCIA... BUT GOOD GOSH... WHO ARE THEY?

THINGS... LIKE HIM! ONE VAMPIRE WAS BAD ENOUGH, BILL... BUT HOW CAN WE FACE THOSE CREATURES... WITH WINGS AND FANGS ALL AROUND US?



WITH HIS GRISLY ALLIES GATHERED AROUND HIM...

THIS WILL BE A SPECTACLE I WANTED MY FELLOW-FIENDS TO WITNESS! COME UP---AND PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE RITUAL OF DARKNESS THAT WILL MAKE YOU ONE OF US!



YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCIA---I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO FACE THOSE JABBERING FREAKS! I WAS DESPERATE---I THOUGHT IT MIGHT WORK---BUT I MIGHT AS WELL SPARE YOU AND FACE THEM ALONE!

BILL---DON'T YOU REALIZE I LOVE YOU ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND ANYTHING THEY CAN DO? DON'T GIVE IN NOW BECAUSE YOU THINK I'M AFRAID---BECAUSE THE ONE THING I FEAR IS LOSING YOU!



THERE IS WHERE YOU WILL MAKE YOUR FIRST FLIGHT---YOUR WINGS UNFOLDING AS YOU SWOOP A HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE GROUND! CLIMB UP---AND LET A VAMPIRE BE BORN WITH THE QUICK FLUTTER OF WINGS!

DON'T HESITATE, HONEY---NOW WE'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH THE BLUFF!



WHEN---AT A BRINK THAT SPRAWLS INTO THE GLOOM BELOW---

SUDDENLY...

MARICA---DON'T! MAYBE YOU CAN'T SAVE YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A VAMPIRE---BUT ONCE IT HAPPENS---WE'LL BE SEPARATED FOREVER!

DO YOU THINK SO, POOL---DON'T YOU REALIZE WHY SHE LURED YOU HERE? YOUR SEPARATION WILL LAST JUST SEVEN NIGHTS---BECAUSE YOU'RE ANOTHER VICTIM I'VE MARKED FOR THE VAMPIRE'S FATE!



NO...NO! I UNDERWENT THE HORROR OF WATCHING HER SUBMIT TO YOUR FANGS... AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT HAPPEN TO ME!

YOU THINK YOU CAN RESIST, EH? I HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT ---NOT MY FANGS ALONE SHALL CLAIM YOU... **BUT THE FANGS OF ALL OF US!**



IN A BRISTLING WAVE OF TERROR...

IT'S HIDEOUS! I SHOULDN'T HAVE WATCHED... I'M LOSING MY BALANCE...



WITH A SUDDEN LUNGE...

STEADY, MARCIA... IT'S ALL OVER!

LOOK! IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE... HOW DOES HE HAPPEN TO HAVE WINGS?



I'D BETTER EXPLAIN FAST, YOU SLAB-FACED HYENA... BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE FOULING THE EARTH MUCH LONGER! YOU VICTIMIZED ME SEVEN NIGHTS AGO... MY WINGS ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO TURN ME INTO A VAMPIRE IF YOU HAD FORCED ME TO MAKE MY FIRST FLIGHT-- **AND MAYBE YOU REALIZE WHAT IT MEANS!**

WE'VE BEEN TRICKED... TRICKED INTO BITING SOMEONE READY TO BECOME A VAMPIRE! ALL OF US... **WE'RE DOOMED!**



THEN--FOR A BRIEF INSTANT BEFORE EXTINCTION... THE VAMPIRES SHOW THEIR TRUE ASPECT!

AAAGH!

DARLING, I WAS ALMOST AFRAID TO FIND OUT... BUT THANK GOODNESS YOUR WINGS ARE GONE! THE MARK OF THE VAMPIRE VANISHED WHEN THEY DID!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCIA! BUT THERE'LL BE MANY A MID-NIGHT WHEN I RUB MY SHOULDER BLADES--AND REMIND MYSELF OF HOW LUCKY I AM!



# The WINGS of DARKNESS



Sometimes a vivid dream seems to brush the borders of Reality--and the more horror it holds--the closer it comes to something that really exists in the world of Fear! It was just such a vision that led a girl to a lonely house where every question mark curled around Terror--Terror that bristled forth on

THE WINGS OF DARKNESS!

ONE NIGHT--AS MARGE DAVIS STIRS RESTLESSLY--

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A TROUBLED DREAM--BUT I'M WIDE AWAKE--AND THERE'S AN EERIE LIGHT MOVING IN THE DARKNESS!



THE GLOOM DRAWS BACK -- AND AS THE AMBER GLOW TAKES FORM --

GOOD HEAVENS -- IT'S TERRY!

MARGE -- I'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM IN! I'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM IN!

FOR A SECOND, THE ROOM ITSELF FADES -- ENGULFED IN A VISION OF HORROR!

TERRY -- YOU'RE A... A GHOST!

I MUSTN'T LET THEM ESCAPE, MARGE! I'VE GOT TO STAND GUARD HERE -- FOREVER!

THEN -- IN A SINGLE WHIRRING RUSH -- TERRY! HE'S GONE -- THE WHOLE IMAGE HAS BEEN BLOTTED OUT BY DARKNESS -- AND IT'S LIKE ONE HUGE FLAPPING MASS OF BATS!

THIS WASN'T AN OPTICAL ILLUSION -- TERRY'S PHANTOM APPEARED BECAUSE HE'S BESET BY SOME HIDEOUS DANGER -- HE NEEDS HELP! HE DROVE OUT TO THE COUNTRY TO LOOK OVER AN OLD HOUSE THAT WAS OFFERED FOR SALE -- AND I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG!

LATE THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON --

THIS IS THE HOUSE TERRY CONSIDERED BUYING! BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE HAD A GLIMPSE OF IT -- HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE STAYED IN A CREEPY PLACE LIKE THIS!

THE HOLLOW THUD OF MARGE'S KNOCK IS ECHOED BY NEARING FOOTSTEPS -- AND SLOWLY --

GOOD EVENING, MISS DAVIS! I WAS EXPECTING YOU!

CRREAK!

EXPECTING ME? BUT WE'VE NEVER MET -- AND HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I ASSUMED YOU WOULD COME TO JOIN YOUR FRIEND -- TERRY WINSLOW! SINCE HE HAS BEEN...DETAINED IN THE VICINITY, I SUGGESTED HE CONTACT YOU -- BECAUSE I DEEPLY FEEL YOU SHOULD BE TOGETHER -- HERE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE DRIVING AT--  
BUT I WANT TO SEE  
TERRY! WHERE  
IS HE?

BE PATIENT! IF YOU CAN WAIT  
IN THIS HOUSE, AS HE WAITED  
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND EVERY-  
THING BY TONIGHT-- WHEN  
THE MOON SETS!

AS THE SHADOWS OF DUSK CLOSE IN LIKE STEALTHY  
PHANTOMS--

YOU MAY HAVE  
DOUBTS-- OR EVEN  
FEEL SOMETHING  
AKIN TO FEAR!  
BUT WHAT DOES  
IT MATTER-- AS  
LONG AS I KEEP  
MY PROMISE?

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY TERRY  
CONTACTING ME-- UNLESS  
HE'S AWARE OF THAT  
HORRIBLE VISION I SAW  
LAST NIGHT? I KNOW I  
SHOULDN'T STAY HERE-- BUT  
WHEN I THINK OF TERRY,  
I DON'T DARE LEAVE!

SUDDENLY-- WITH A  
SHRIEK OF INHUMAN  
FRENZY--

AGHHHHH!  
IT'S ONE OF  
THOSE HIDEOUS  
LITTLE  
MONSTERS!

GOOD  
HEAVENS  
-- WHAT'S  
WRONG?

THE OTHERS WILL  
NEVER ESCAPE--  
I'VE SEEN TO  
THAT! BUT NEW  
ONES KEEP COMING  
-- THEY FLUTTER  
HUNDREDS OF MILES  
-- AND I KNOW  
WHAT THEY'RE  
AFTER!

BUT IT'S  
JUST AN  
ORDINARY  
BAT-- IT  
CAN'T  
POSSIBLY  
HARM  
YOU!

BUT THINK OF  
THOUSANDS  
OF THEM--  
CLINGING  
TO EVERY  
INCH OF  
MY BODY!  
THEY'D  
TEAR  
ME  
APART!

WHAT'S  
BEHIND  
THIS INSANE  
FEAR OF BATS?  
AND WHY DID  
HE SAY THEY'LL  
NEVER ESCAPE--  
THE VERY  
WORDS TERRY  
USED IN  
THAT  
VISION?

WAIT! SO FAR THIS HAS  
ALL BEEN A GREAT MYSTERY  
TO ME-- BUT I'M SURE OF  
ONE THING-- THERE'S  
A CAVE SOMEWHERE  
AROUND HERE!

SEE FOR YOURSELF!  
PERHAPS THEN YOU  
WILL BE SURE OF  
SOMETHING ELSE--  
THAT YOU CANNOT  
LEAVE HERE  
WITHOUT DOING  
MY BIDDING!

HEAVEN KNOWS WHERE I'M GOING  
TO LOOK! BUT I'VE GOT TO  
FIND THE CAVE-- I'VE GOT TO  
SEE TERRY-- AND LEARN  
THE TRUTH!



MINUTES LATER-- AS A MUFFLED STIRRING SOUNDS  
IN THE RESTLESS GLOOM--

THAT STRANGE NOISE IS GETTING LOUDER--  
THE CLOSER I COME TO THAT SLOPE!  
THAT'S WHERE THE CAVE MUST BE-- THE  
VERY ONE I SAW IN THE VISION-- AND  
THE RUSTLING IS CAUSED BY  
HUNDREDS OF CIRCLING BATS!



THEN-- PALE AS A DYING CANDLE FLAME  
IN THE FLUTTERING SHADOWS--



TERRY-- WHAT KIND OF  
THING IS HE? WHY IS HE  
TERRIFIED OF BATS--  
WHY HAS HE DONE THIS  
TO YOU?

DON'T TRY TO  
FIND THE ANSWER  
-- WHEN IT MEANS  
PLUNGING INTO THE  
DEPTH OF HORROR!  
NOTHING CAN HELP  
ME-- UNTIL THAT  
MONSTER DIES!

I AM GOING TO FIND THE ANSWER  
-- BEFORE I GO MAD! THE MOON  
IS READY TO SET-- AND FIEND OR  
HUMAN, HE'S GOT TO TELL ME  
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW-- NO  
MATTER

WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO ME!



HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT I'LL HAVE TO FACE  
INSIDE-- BUT I'VE GOT TO BE READY FOR  
ANYTHING-- FOR TERRY'S SAKE!



THROUGH THE SILENT HOUSE -- DRIVEN BY A  
CURRENT OF FEAR--

I'VE SEARCHED EVERY ROOM!  
THERE'S JUST ONE PLACE  
HE CAN BE-- UP IN  
THE ATTIC!



FOR A MOMENT--THE SHADOWS  
HOLD ONLY A VAGUE FORM--  
DANGLING AND MOTIONLESS--

GOODNESS KNOWS WHY I  
FEEL DREAD CREEPING ALL  
AROUND ME! THERE'S NOTHING  
HERE-- JUST SOME OLD  
CLOTHES HANGING FROM  
THAT BEAM!

THEN-- AS A PULSING GLOW  
OUTLINES THE CLINGING SHAPE--

SLOWLY-- UNFOLDING IN A  
PATTERN OF HORROR--



THEN, IN A BRISTLING SWOOP, AS IF THE  
DARKNESS ITSELF TOOK WING--

WHY COULDN'T I HAVE GUESSED?  
ALL THESE HINTS ABOUT BATS  
AND CAVES-- WHY DIDN'T I  
DARE REALIZE WHAT  
YOU ARE?

BECAUSE YOUR FEAR NEEDED  
PROOF! AND NOW YOU KNOW  
WHAT I AM-- A VAMPIRE!

NO WONDER THERE'S  
NOTHING LEFT OF TERRY,  
NOTHING BUT A PHANTOM  
WITHOUT A WILL!  
YOU'VE PREYED ON  
HIM-- YOU'VE  
KILLED HIM!

NO, HE IS NOT DEAD-- BUT HE  
WILL REMAIN A PHAN-  
TOM AS LONG AS I AM  
ALIVE! BATS FEAR SUPER-  
NATURAL BEINGS-- THEY FLIT  
EVERYWHERE EXCEPT OVER  
GRAVEYARDS! NOW THEY  
ARE TRAPPED IN THE CAVE  
BECAUSE THEY  
DREAD THE GHOST  
THAT BARS  
THEIR ESCAPE!

CAN YOU SEE WHY I FEAR BATS-- WHY  
THEY'VE GATHERED IN THE CAVE FROM  
FAR AND WIDE OVER THE YEARS? THEY  
HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO THE SPOT THAT  
HARBORS A VAMPIRE-- AND WITHOUT  
THE GHOST STANDING GUARD-- THEY  
WOULD RIP ME TO PIECES!



YOU SEEK A REUNION  
WITH THE MAN YOU LOVE  
-- **AND I AM READY**  
TO KEEP MY PROMISE!  
ONCE YOU HAVE BECOME  
MY VICTIM, YOU TOO WILL  
BE A GHOST-- YOU  
WILL SHARE HIS  
VIGIL IN THE CAVE  
-- **UNTIL THE**  
END OF TIME!

THAT'S WHY YOU  
SAID I'D NEVER  
LEAVE-- BECAUSE  
YOU KNEW I'D  
TAKE ANY CHANCE  
OF SHARING  
TERRY'S LIFE--  
EVEN IF IT MEANT  
BECOMING A  
THING LIKE  
HIM!

SECONDS LATER-- IN A  
FLASH OF HORROR THAT  
CRACKLES THROUGH THE  
NIGHT--

NO-- NO-- I  
CAN'T! TERRY  
-- HELP ME!

THE VAMPIRE'S POWER  
CLINGS LIKE AN OCTOPUS--  
BUT IN A TORTURED UP-  
HEAVAL OF HUMAN WILL--

I FOUGHT THAT DEMON  
FURIOUSLY-- YET I COULDN'T  
SAVE MYSELF! BUT NOW  
I'M READY TO FACE THE  
WORST TORMENTS THE  
VAMPIRE CAN INFILCT--  
AS LONG AS IT GIVES  
MARGE A CHANCE  
TO ESCAPE!

A MISTY SHAPE GROPS IN THE GLOOM--  
AND ABOVE-- FLAPPING IN MYRIADS  
TOWARD THE EVIL HOUSE--

MARGE-- DON'T  
GIVE IN! YOU'VE  
GOT TO RESIST--  
JUST A  
MOMENT  
LONGER!

WE GODS-- I  
WARNED HER!  
SHE'S LEARNED  
WHAT THAT  
MONSTER CAN  
DO-- SHE'S  
TRAPPED!

NOTHING BUT MY  
DEATH! AND HOW  
COULD I BE FURTHER  
FROM DEATH THAN I  
AM AT THIS INSTANT--  
ON THE VERGE OF  
CLAIMING MY  
VICTIM?

SUDDENLY-- RUSTLING FAINTLY AS A SMOTHERED  
WHISPER--

THAT THING!  
WHAT IS IT--  
CLINGING  
TO THE  
CURTAIN?

THEN-- AS THE STIRRING MOUNTS IN A RUSH  
OF BEATING WINGS

WHAT ARE THEY?  
THE THINGS FROM THE  
CAVE-- THE  
CREATURES  
THAT CAN  
DESTROY  
YOU!

TERRY--  
THANK  
HEAVENS!

HE'S LET THESE TWITTERING DEMONS  
ESCAPE-- HUNDREDS OF THEM!  
I'VE GOT TO FIND REFUGE IN DARKNESS  
BEFORE I'M OVERWHELMED!

WITH A DESPERATE SWOOP--  
THEY WAITED IN  
THE CAVE-- WAITED  
FOR THIS MOMENT!  
AND NOW THEY'RE  
AFTER ME-- WITH  
BEADY EYES-- WITH  
GLINTING FANGS!  
I MUST ESCAPE!



BUT IN THE NEXT SECOND-- STRUGGLING  
WITH A HIDEOUS BURDEN OF  
WRITHING, FURRY FORMS--

DON'T BE AFRAID, MARGE!  
THAT'S THE VAMPIRE'S LAST  
FLIGHT-- AND IT'S ENDING  
IN A DEATH PLUNGE!



TERRY! I CAN  
HARDLY BELIEVE  
MY EYES-- BUT  
YOU'VE REGAINED  
YOUR HUMAN  
FORM!

THERE'S THE REASON,  
HONEY! THE VAMPIRE'S  
DISSOLVING INTO A SPIRIT  
-- AND THAT'S THE WAY  
HE'LL STAY-- TRAPPED  
IN PERDITION UNTIL  
DOOMSDAY!

LOOK, TERRY, IT'S DAWNING--  
AND THE BATS ARE FLAPPING  
OFF JUST AS IF THEY KNEW  
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY  
REASON TO STAY HERE!  
DO YOU SUPPOSE-- SOME  
MIDNIGHT-- THEY'LL  
GATHER TO DESTROY  
ANOTHER  
VAMPIRE?

LUCKILY-- I THINK  
THOSE CREEPS ARE  
FEW AND FAR  
BETWEEN! BUT EVEN  
SO, BABY-- IF WE EVER  
FIND A SPOT WHERE  
BATS EVEN SEEM  
TO BE GATHERING--  
WE'RE TAKING A  
POWDER IN THE  
OPPOSITE  
DIRECTION!



THE  
END

# The ZOMBIE'S EYES



ON A DARKENED HOSPITAL ROOM, RETURNING CONSCIOUSNESS BRINGS A VIVID IMAGE--A MEMORY RELIVED FOR A SINGLE TERRIBLE INSTANT!



I'VE GOT TO FORGET THE ACCIDENT--I'VE GOT TO BLOT IT OUT! I CAN'T SEE, BUT THANK HEAVEN I CAN HEAR FOOTSTEPS--I'M NOT ALONE!



WHERE--  
AM I ?

IN SOUTHSIDE HOSPITAL! YOU HAVE JUST HAD AN OPERATION TO RESTORE YOUR VISION--AN OPERATION AT MY EXPENSE !

YOU PAID FOR ME!  
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?

I CAME HERE SO YOU WOULD FIND OUT ! FIRST--WE'LL REMOVE THE BANDAGE !



WHEN--AT THE FIRST TOUCH OF THE COLD AND BLOODLESS HAND--

NO--DON'T! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT YOU--I CAN FEEL IT!

I FIGURED MISS PARRY WOULD REVIVE ABOUT THIS TIME--BUT SHE SEEMS DELIRIOUS !

HELP! HE'S GOING TO GET ME--HE'S IN THIS ROOM !

TAKE IT EASY, HONEY!

THERE'S NO NEED GETTING YOURSELF KEYED UP ! I'M DR. JOHN KIRKWOOD, WHO PERFORMED THE OPERATION--AND YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD THAT IT WAS SUCCESSFUL !



YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER THE PLANE CRASH ! WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS THAT ONLY YOURSELF AND A MALE PASSENGER WERE FLUNG CLEAR--THE OTHERS WERE TRAPPED IN THE BLAZING WRECKAGE ! THE MAN DIED ALMOST INSTANTLY--AND AS FOR YOU, YOUR EYES WERE SEARED BY HIGH-OCTANE AVIATION FUEL !

THEN THAT EXPLAINS THE BANDAGE--I'M BLIND !

DIDN'T I SAY YOU HAD AN OPERATION ? VISION DEPENDS ON A PART OF THE EYE KNOWN AS THE CORNEA--AND YOURS WERE HOPELESSLY DAMAGED ! BUT NOW YOU'VE GOT PERFECTLY NEW CORNEAS--TAKEN FROM THE EYES OF THE MAN WHOSE BODY ESCAPED THE FLAMES !

IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS--  
YOUR EYESIGHT WILL BE COMPLETELY RESTORED !



I SHOULD FEEL REASSURED, DR. KIRKWOOD--BUT I'M NOT! THERE WAS A MAN IN HERE WITH A STRANGE, HOLLOW VOICE--AND HE TOLD ME THE OPERATION WAS AT HIS EXPENSE!

JUST A NIGHTMARE--CAUSED BY THE ETHER WEARING OFF! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO NOW IS RELAX--AND FORGET EVERYTHING BUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET BETTER FAST!



IN THE BARE CHAMBER WHERE BODIES ARE EXAMINED, ACCORDING TO LAW, BEFORE BURIAL--

WAIT A MINUTE! WHEN I REMOVED THE EYES FROM THAT PLANE VICTIM'S BODY--I LEFT ORDERS THAT IT WAS TO REMAIN HERE FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION!

THAT'S WHY I GOT YOU DOWN HERE, DOCTOR! THAT BODY WASN'T REMOVED--NO ONE TOUCHED IT--IT LEFT BY ITSELF!



DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, JOHNSON! IT ISN'T A VERY FUNNY JOKE--BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME MEDICAL INTERNS HAVE HIDDEN AN UNCLAIMED CORPSE!

THE DOOR WAS LOCKED, DR. KIRKWOOD--I'VE GOT THE KEY! THE ONLY OTHER WAY TO GET IT OPEN IS TO TURN THIS LATCH--FROM THE INSIDE!



MOMENT LATER--

WHAT'S WRONG, JOHNSON? DON'T TELL ME THERE'S ANOTHER EMERGENCY CASE!

FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, DOCTOR--DON'T WASTE TIME--YOU'VE GOT TO COME TO THE AUTOPSY ROOM!



WEEK LATER-- WELL, DRU--THIS'LL SHOW YOU I WASN'T JUST HANDING YOU A LINE TO BOOST YOUR MORALE! HOW ABOUT IT?

IT'S LIKE COMING BACK TO LIFE--I CAN SEE!

YOU'RE THE FIRST THING I WANT TO LOOK AT, DR. KIRKWOOD--SO YOU'LL KNOW HOW DEEPLY I MEAN IT WHEN I SAY THANK YOU--WITH ALL MY HEART!

O.K., DRU--BUT I'M A LITTLE TOO CLOSE! LOOK AROUND THE ROOM--AND LET'S SEE WHETHER YOUR EYES ARE FOCUSING CORRECTLY!



YOU NEEDN'T WORRY--I CAN SEE PERFECTLY! YOUR NURSE--THAT OLD GENTLEMAN--EVERYTHING'S CLEAR AS CRYSTAL!

OLD GENTLEMAN...! YE GODS, SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE--BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY MAN IN THE ROOM!

DRU, THE NEXT STEP IS TO TAKE A SHORT DRIVE--AND SEE HOW YOUR EYES REACT TO SUNLIGHT! DO YOU WANT TO?

RIGHT NOW--I COULDN'T WANT ANYTHING MORE!



I'VE BEEN WONDERING HOW YOUR VISION IS WHEN IT COMES TO DETAILS, DRU! FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OLD MAN BACK IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM--CAN YOU DESCRIBE HIM--CLOSELY?

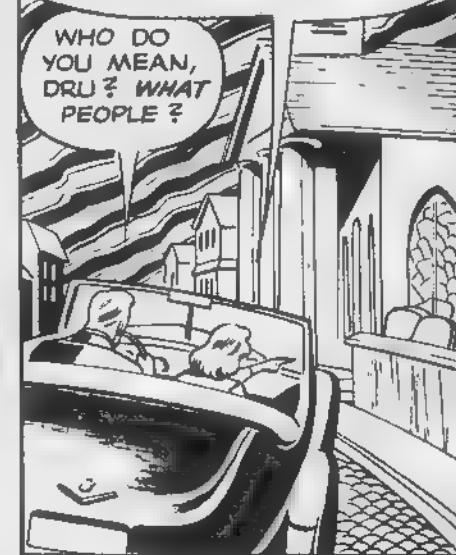
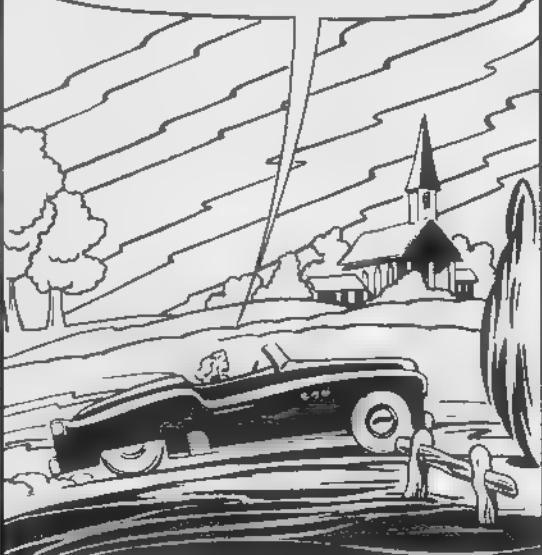
OF COURSE I CAN! HE WAS BALD--HE HAD VERY SHAGGY EYEBROWS-- AND A NOSE WITH A LONG, THIN BRIDGE!

GOOD LORD-- THAT'S JUST WHAT I SUSPECTED! THAT WAS OLD MAN STEVENS, WHO DIED IN THAT VERY ROOM LAST NIGHT-- AND WHAT SHE SAW WAS HIS GHOST!

SOON AFTERWARD--

THERE CAN'T BE A WEDDING AT THIS HOUR, DR. KIRKWOOD! WHY ARE ALL THOSE PEOPLE STANDING AROUND?

WHO DO YOU MEAN, DRU? WHAT PEOPLE?



RIGHT THERE! OH, HEAVENS-- IT'S A GRAVEYARD--ARE THEY --GATHERED FOR A FUNERAL?

DRU, THIS'LL BE A SHOCK--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW! THERE'S NO FUNERAL TAKING PLACE HERE--THERE ARE NO PEOPLE-- AND THERE WAS NO OLD MAN IN THE ROOM WHEN I REMOVED THOSE BANDAGES!

BUT THAT'S INCREDIBLE! WHY DO I SEE THOSE THINGS-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY EYES?



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, DR. KIRKWOOD PONDERS IN SILENCE AS DUSK GATHERS OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE--GROPING FOR WORDS TO EXPRESS A REALIZATION LIVID WITH HORROR!

DRU--YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THEY'RE NOT REALLY YOUR EYES! THERE HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS OF CORNEA GRAFT OPERATIONS--BUT THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN DONE WITH EYES FROM HUMANS!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT THE EYES USED FOR MY OPERATION WERE TAKEN FROM THE BODY OF A MAN WHO DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH?

THAT'S RIGHT--BUT HE WASN'T A MAN, DRU--AND HE DIDN'T DIE! HE'S THE KIND OF CREATURE THAT NEVER DIES--WITH EYES THAT CAN SEE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD BECAUSE HE PREYS ON THEM--A ZOMBIE!



NOW I KNOW WHY HE CAME TO MY HOSPITAL ROOM--WHY HE STARTED TO UNDO THE BANDAGE! HE CAN'T FIND THE DEAD WITHOUT HIS EYES--HE'S TRYING TO GET THEM BACK!

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WHAT-EVER HAPPENS, DON'T GIVE WAY TO PANIC-- THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO STOP THAT FIEND!



SUDDENLY-- YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME, DR. KIRKWOOD--AFTER I LIVED THROUGH A PLANE CRASH--AND AN EXCRUCIATING OPERATION WITHOUT ANESTHESIA?

DOCTOR--THAT VOICE! IT'S HIM--THE ZOMBIE!



TAKE IT EASY, DRU! THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO LEARN FROM THIS CREEP--INCLUDING HOW HE HAPPENED TO BE ON THAT PLANE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I HAD A PREMONITION OF DISASTER--AND I PLANNED TO SUMMON THE DEAD TO THE HALF-LIFE OF THE ZOMBIES AFTER THE PLANE CRASHED! BUT SOMETHING AT THE SCENE OF THE WRECK KEPT ME CHECKED--AND DON'T THINK I'LL BE FOOL ENOUGH TO TELL YOU WHAT IT WAS!



EVEN SO--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU PRETENDED TO BE DEAD--SUBMITTING TO THE TORTURE OF THAT OPERATION!

DON'T YOU SEE I HAD NO OTHER COURSE--WHEN THE RESCUE PARTY ARRIVED A MOMENT AFTER THE PLANE CRASHED? EVERYONE IN MY SECTION OF THE PLANE HAD BEEN INSTANTLY KILLED--HOW COULD I LET MYSELF BE DISCOVERED UNHARMED--WITHOUT PROVING I WAS A ZOMBIE?



THE REAL TEST CAME ON THE OPERATING TABLE--WHEN YOUR SCALPEL SLASHED INTO MY EYE SOCKETS! BUT I WITHSTOOD THE AGONY, KNOWING IT WOULD BE JUST A QUESTION OF TIME-- A TIME LIKE THIS--



--WHEN I WOULD GET BACK MY EYES!

DRU--WATCH OUT!



I'LL TRY TO HOLD HIM! GET TO THE CAR!

SOK!

THIS WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT IT MEANS TO RESIST ME--THE KIND OF DEATH YOU NEVER DARED DREAM OF!

POW



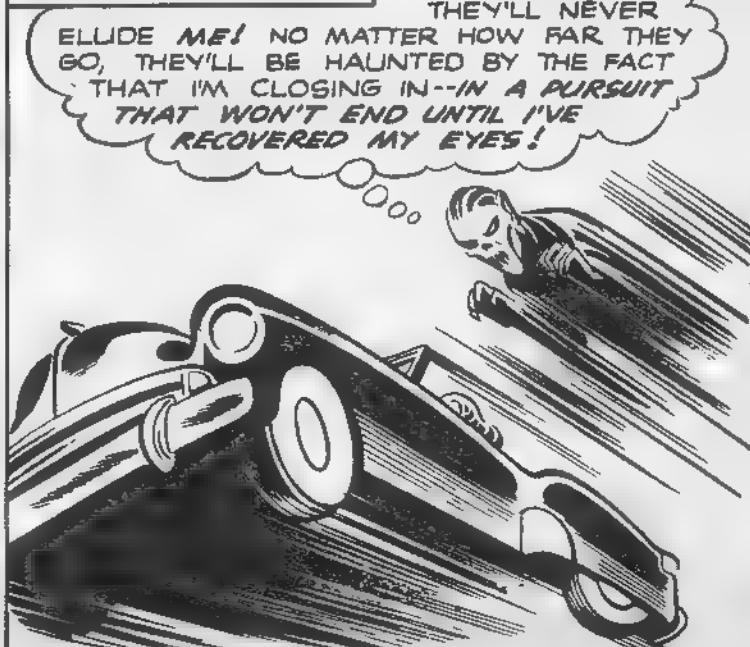
AS THE DREAD FIGURE LEAPS--HIS CLAWED HANDS GROPING--

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DOCTOR--DON'T LOSE YOUR GRIP! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!



ON THE NEXT INSTANT--THE ZOMBIE UNDERGOES A HIDEOUS TRANSFORMATION!

THEY'LL NEVER ELUDE ME! NO MATTER HOW FAR THEY GO, THEY'LL BE HAUNTED BY THE FACT THAT I'M CLOSING IN--IN A PURSUIT THAT WON'T END UNTIL I'VE RECOVERED MY EYES!



MINUTES LATER--UNAWARE OF THE FIENDISH FIGURE ABOVE THEM--

I HATE TO THINK OF THE HORRIBLE RISK YOU TOOK IN ORDER TO SAVE ME, DOCTOR--YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!

NO USE DWELLING ON THAT! WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT IS THE THING THAT WARDED OFF THE ZOMBIE AT THE PLANE WRECK--BECAUSE IT'S THE ONE THING THAT WILL DO ANY GOOD NOW!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING THAT WASN'T DESTROYED BY THE FLAMES--AND SINCE YOU WERE THE ONLY HUMAN WHO WAS THROWN CLEAR--YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CARRIED THE MYSTERIOUS TALISMAN THE ZOMBIE FEARS!

HE WOULDN'T HAVE ATTACKED NOW IF YOU STILL HAD IT--SO THINK BACK, DRU--DID YOU LOSE ANYTHING DURING THE ACCIDENT?

YES--THE NECKLACE I BOUGHT IN HAITI! IT WAS JUST A NATIVE TRIFLE--MADE OF RED AND BLACK SEEDS!



GREAT GUNS--THAT'S IT! THOSE ARE JUMBLE SEEDS, DRU--JUMBLE MEANS THE SAME THING AS ZOMBIE--AND THE SEEDS ARE USED IN VOODOO TO REPEL THE WALKING DEAD!

THAT WON'T BE ANY HELP TO US! THERE ISN'T ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION WE'LL FIND THE NECKLACE--AND WE'D NEVER HAVE TIME TO GET MORE JUMBLE SEEDS--ALL THE WAY FROM THE WEST INDIES!

YOU'RE RIGHT--IN FACT, I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE LONGER THAN TONIGHT! WE'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP FLEEING THAT FIEND, DRU--WE'VE GOT TO TAKE A CHANCE--AND LET HIM CORNER US!



HALF-HOUR LATER--

COME ON, HONEY--HERE'S THE PLACE I HAVE IN MIND!

A NIGHT CLUB? BUT DOCTOR, HE'S FOLLOWED US--HERE HE COMES!



YEP--I EXPECTED HIM TO FOLLOW US! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT BY BEING CORNERED, SWEETHEART!

SEÑOR--THE PLACE IS CLOSING! THE ORCHESTRA IS READY TO LEAVE!



NEVER MIND THAT--START PLAYING! DRU--GET OVER TO THE BAR!



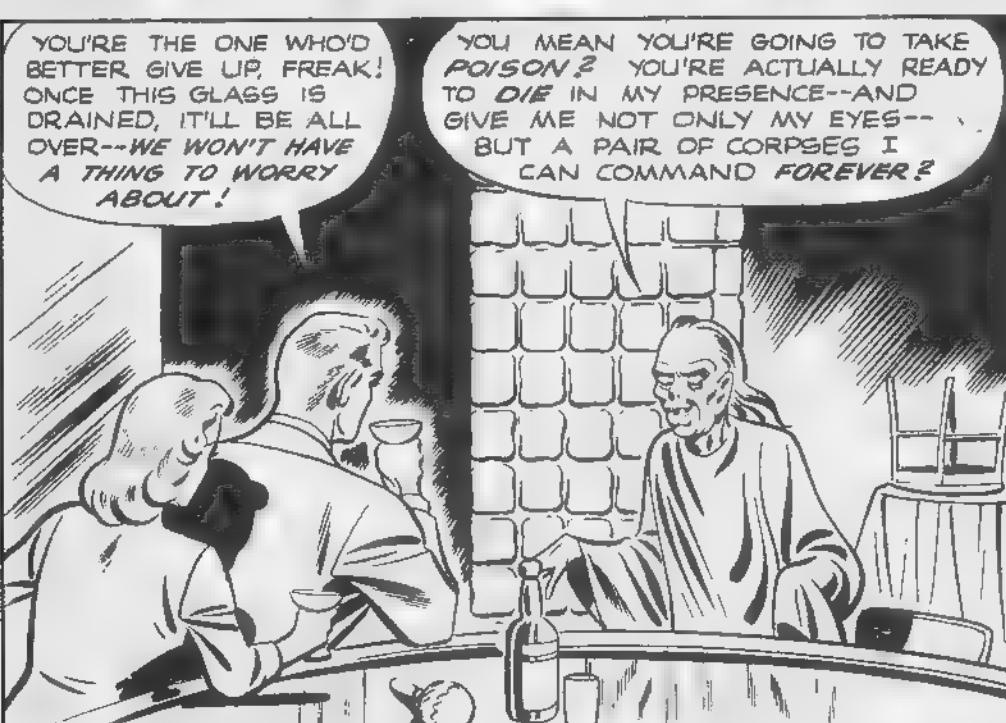
AN INSTANT LATER--AS IF THE CHILL OF DEATH HAD ENTERED IN AN UNSEEN BLAST--

DIOS MIO--  
THAT IS NOTHING ALIVE! IT  
IS A BEING WE KNOW WELL  
IN CUBA--THE CREATURE  
OF RESTLESS GRAVE-  
YARDS!

ONLY ONE THING  
WILL SAVE US! PRE-  
TEND YOU DON'T NO-  
TICE HIM--KEEP  
PLAYING!

EASY, DRU! WE'VE  
GOT TO ACT BOLDLY  
--WITHOUT SHRINK-  
ING!

YOU'RE ACTUALLY  
WAITING FOR ME,  
EH? YOU TWO GAVE  
UP MORE QUICKLY  
THAN I EXPECTED,  
DR. KIRKWOOD!



YES, WE WERE WAITING, CHUM--  
WAITING WITH A DRINK PREPARED  
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

YOU TRICKED ME! BUT  
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY  
GOOD--YOU'LL DIE--  
WITH ME--

ON THE NEXT SECOND--THE GASPING SHAPE  
SHRIVELS INTO SOMETHING THE EARTH HAD  
CLAIMED CENTURIES AGO!



# SLAVE OF THE LIVING DEAD



SINCE TIME BEGAN, MANY A MOONLIT GRAVE HAS QUIVERED WITH A STIRRING FROM BELOW -- MANY A GAUNT THING HAS RISEN IN THE NIGHT -- TO JOIN THE SHUFFLING RANKS OF THE **UNDEAD**! BUT NOTHING WAS LIKE THE CREATURE THAT TOOK SHAPE IN A HOUSE WITH A LONELY CORPSE -- A CORPSE THAT CHANGED IN A GUSH OF FLAME -- INTO THE **DEATH-SLAVE**!

LATE ONE EVENING --

HOPE MR. JORDAN WON'T MIND MY UNEXPECTED VISIT -- WHEN HE LEARNS I WANT TO TAKE UP POTTERY AS A HOBBY! THE LIBRARIAN HAD JUST THIS ONE BOOK ON THE SUBJECT -- BUT SHE THOUGHT MR. JORDAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEND ME OTHERS!



STRANGE  
NO ONE  
ANSWERS...

WITH THE DOOR  
UNLOCKED AND  
THE LIGHTS  
BLAZING! I'D  
BETTER SEE IF  
ANYTHING'S  
WRONG!

IN A SILENCE THAT HANGS LIKE AN UNNATURAL CHILL --

OH! MR. JORDAN'S DEAD!  
IT MUST HAVE JUST HAPPENED --  
HIS CIGARETTE STUB IS  
STILL SMOLDERING!



AS ELAINE REACHES  
FOR THE PHONE--

HA-HA! I WAITED  
FOR THIS NIGHT--  
WHEN JORDAN  
WOULD CEASE  
TO BE!

GOOD HEAVENS! THAT VOICE  
SOUNDS ABSOLUTELY INHUMAN--  
AND THERE'S A  
FLICKERING GLOW  
JUST OUTSIDE  
THE WINDOW!

AH, THERE  
HE IS-- **DEAD**--  
HIS CORPSE  
AWAITING ME!

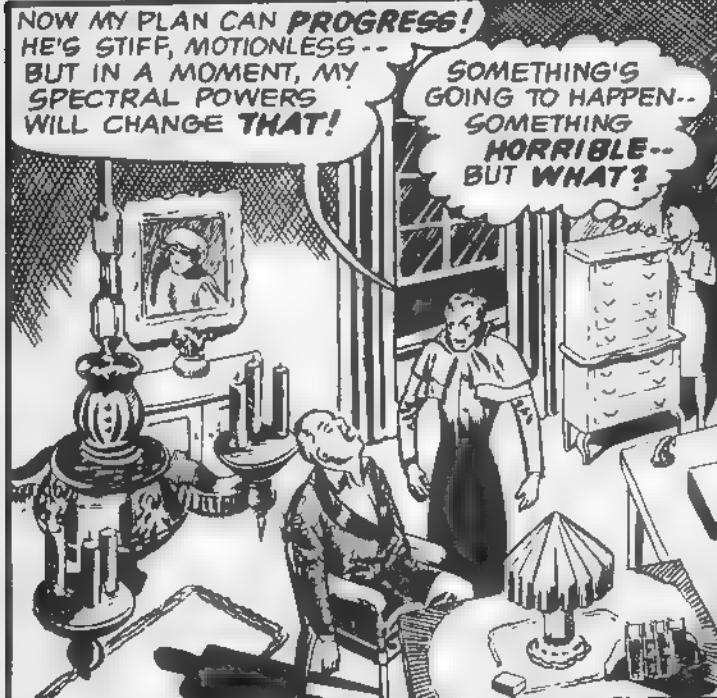
OHN!



NOW MY PLAN CAN **PROGRESS**!  
HE'S STIFF, MOTIONLESS--  
BUT IN A MOMENT, MY  
SPECTRAL POWERS  
WILL CHANGE THAT!

SOMETHING'S  
GOING TO HAPPEN--  
SOMETHING  
HORRIBLE--  
BUT WHAT?

WITH A VOICE THAT  
THROBS THROUGH  
THE MISTY REACHES  
OF THE BEYOND--



PLODDING-- DRAWN  
BY THE MAGNET OF  
AN EVIL WILL--

CORPSE-- TO THE  
CELLAR! I WILL HAVE  
A TASK FOR YOU  
TONIGHT-- WHEN  
YOU BECOME THE  
FIRST OF MY  
DEATH-SLAVES!



GOOD HEAVENS-- A  
DEAD BODY-- MOVING!  
I'M GETTING OUT OF  
THIS HIDEOUS  
PLACE!

A HUMAN WITNESS-- AFTER  
I COUNTED ON FINDING JORDAN  
ALONE! IT WAS A MISTAKE  
FOR HER TO COME HERE IN THE  
FIRST PLACE-- BUT DROPPING THIS  
BOOK WAS FATAL! HERE'S A  
LIBRARY CARD-- WITH HER  
NAME AND  
ADDRESS!



LATER, AT ELAINE'S HOME--

I CAN'T PHONE BILL-- HE  
MENTIONED SOMETHING  
ABOUT A BOWLING TOURNAMENT  
TONIGHT! BUT WHEN I  
THINK OF THAT HORRIBLE  
EXPERIENCE-- THE  
IDEA OF BEING **ALONE**  
TERRIFIES ME!

AS ELAINE SINKS INTO  
A TROUBLED SLEEP--  
HER NAME--  
ELAINE CAMERON!  
HER ADDRESS--  
FAIRLAWN ROAD!  
HER FATE--

**DEATH-  
SLAVE!**

SUDDENLY-- HEAVENS-- IT'S A GOOD  
THING I AWAKENED! I  
CAN DETECT SMOKE--  
**CLOSE!**

BLINDLY,  
ELAINE  
FLINGS OPEN  
THE DOOR--  
AND THERE--

OH! MERCIFUL  
HEAVENS--  
WHAT IS IT?

THE SWIRLING CREATURE ADVANCES  
-- A PUFF OF SMOKE CURLING FROM  
ITS WRITHING GREY MOUTH--

NO-- NO!  
DON'T  
COME  
IN!

IT'S SPEAKING! IT'S A  
MONSTER MADE OF SMOKE  
AND THE SMOKE CARRIES  
ITS VOICE!

I AM DEATH-  
SLAVE-- PLEDGED  
TO WHAT  
MASTER  
WANTS...

...AND  
MASTER  
WANTS  
YOU!

MEANWHILE...

PRETTY LATE TO CALL ON ELAINE! BUT I'VE SURE GOT PLENTY TO CROW ABOUT TONIGHT-- AFTER WINNING THAT BOWLING TOURNAMENT!

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING--OUT OF A BAD DREAM-- **BUT I'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!**

AS THE VAPOR OF DEATH DISSOLVES INTO HOLLOW WORDS--

HOLY MACKEREL-- WHATEVER THAT THING IS-- IT'S GOT ELAINE!



WHEN THE ACRID CLOUD FADES--

THEY'VE-VANISHED! WHAT WOULD A THING LIKE THAT WANT WITH A HUMAN-- **WHERE IS IT TAKING HER?**

MAYBE-- MAYBE IF I FOUND OUT HOW IT MANAGED TO GET ON HER TRACK, I MIGHT GET A LEAD! AND THE FIRST STEP IS TO TRACE WHERE SHE'S BEEN TONIGHT!



HA! THERE WAS DEATH IN THIS HOUSE THE FIRST TIME SHE CAME-- **BUT NOW SHE'LL FIND IT HARBORS SOMETHING FAR MORE HORRIBLE!**



ELAINE REVIVES--IN DENSE DARKNESS--

WHERE--WHERE AM I? EVERYTHING'S BLACK--AND THOSE TREMENDOUS WAVES OF HEAT COMING TOWARD ME--

SUDDENLY--

IT'S SOME KIND OF STRANGE FURNACE--BURNING WHITE-HOT!



THEN--MOVING INTO THE FIERY GLARE--

YES--A VERY UNUSUAL FURNACE--AS YOU ARE GOING TO LEARN!



THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN ME AND THE DOOR--I'VE GOT TO REACH IT!

YOU THINK YOUR WAY IS CLEAR--BUT WATCH!

YES--I'VE PROJECTED MY SPIRIT SELF INTO YOUR PATH!

OH! THEY'RE TOGETHER--THE THING THAT BROUGHT ME HERE--AND THE DEMON WHO RAISED MR. JORDAN'S BODY FROM DEATH!



IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T ESCAPE FROM SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

HA-HA! YOU WILL GROW ACCUSTOMED TO MY STRANGE POWERS--ONCE YOU HAVE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO SERVE A ZOMBIE!

A ZOMBIE! AND WHAT--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MR. JORDAN'S CORPSE?

THAT IS WHAT IS LEFT OF JORDAN! CAN'T YOU GUESS HOW IT WAS DONE--REMEMBERING THE MURDER HE COMMITTED WHILE HE WAS ALIVE?

THE FURNACE--THE EXTRA HOT FURNACE HE USED TO MAKE POTTERY!



I REMAINED IN MY TOMB FOR YEARS-- BIDING MY TIME-- KNOWING WHAT JORDAN'S DEATH WOULD MEAN TO ME! WHAT MORE COULD I ASK-- A CORPSE LYING IN AN ISOLATED HOUSE-- A HOUSE WITH THE VERY KIND OF FURNACE I NEED TO CREATE DEATH-SLAVES IN AN INFERNO OF FLAME!

BUT WHY SOMETHING LIKE THIS-- A BODY CREMATED UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT SMOKE?

BECAUSE FIRE DESTROYS THE BRAIN AND NERVE CELLS-- THE VERY SOURCES OF WILL POWER THAT MAKE THE DEAD DIFFICULT TO CONTROL! BUT A DEATH-SLAVE IS A BODY REDUCED TO ITS LOWEST FORM-- A CREATURE WHOSE ONLY FUNCTION IS TO OBEY!

THIS IS THE START OF A HORDE OF DEATH-SLAVES! FIRST JORDAN-- AND NOW--

THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE-- BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT-- I'M NOT DEAD!



YOU WILL BE-- AFTER THE FURNACE GETS IN ITS WORK! KEEP YOUR GAZE ON MINE-- AND DO MY BIDDING!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING BUT HIS OVERPOWERING WILL!



I AM WAITING! JORDAN USED THESE ROLLERS TO AVOID THE TREMENDOUS HEAT WHEN HE PLACED OBJECTS IN THE FURNACE! ONE THRUST OF MY FOOT WILL SEND YOU INTO THE FLAMES-- AND AUTOMATICALLY CLOSE THE DOOR ON YOUR FIERY TOMB!

HOLY SMOKE!



SHE-- SHE'S UP AGAINST SOMETHING NEW NOW-- SOMETHING WORSE! AND THIS-- IT'S MY ONLY WEAPON!



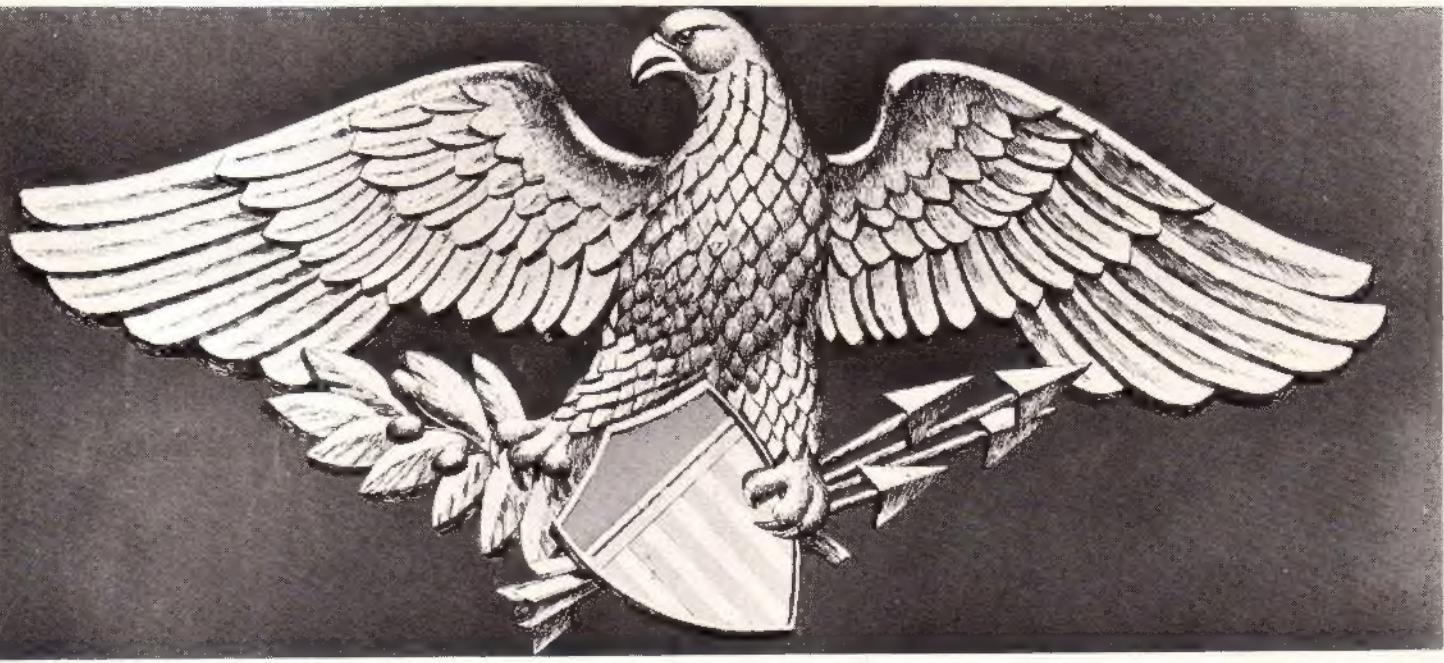
COME CLOSER-- DEATH-SLAVE!

ELAINE-- GET BACK-- GET BACK!





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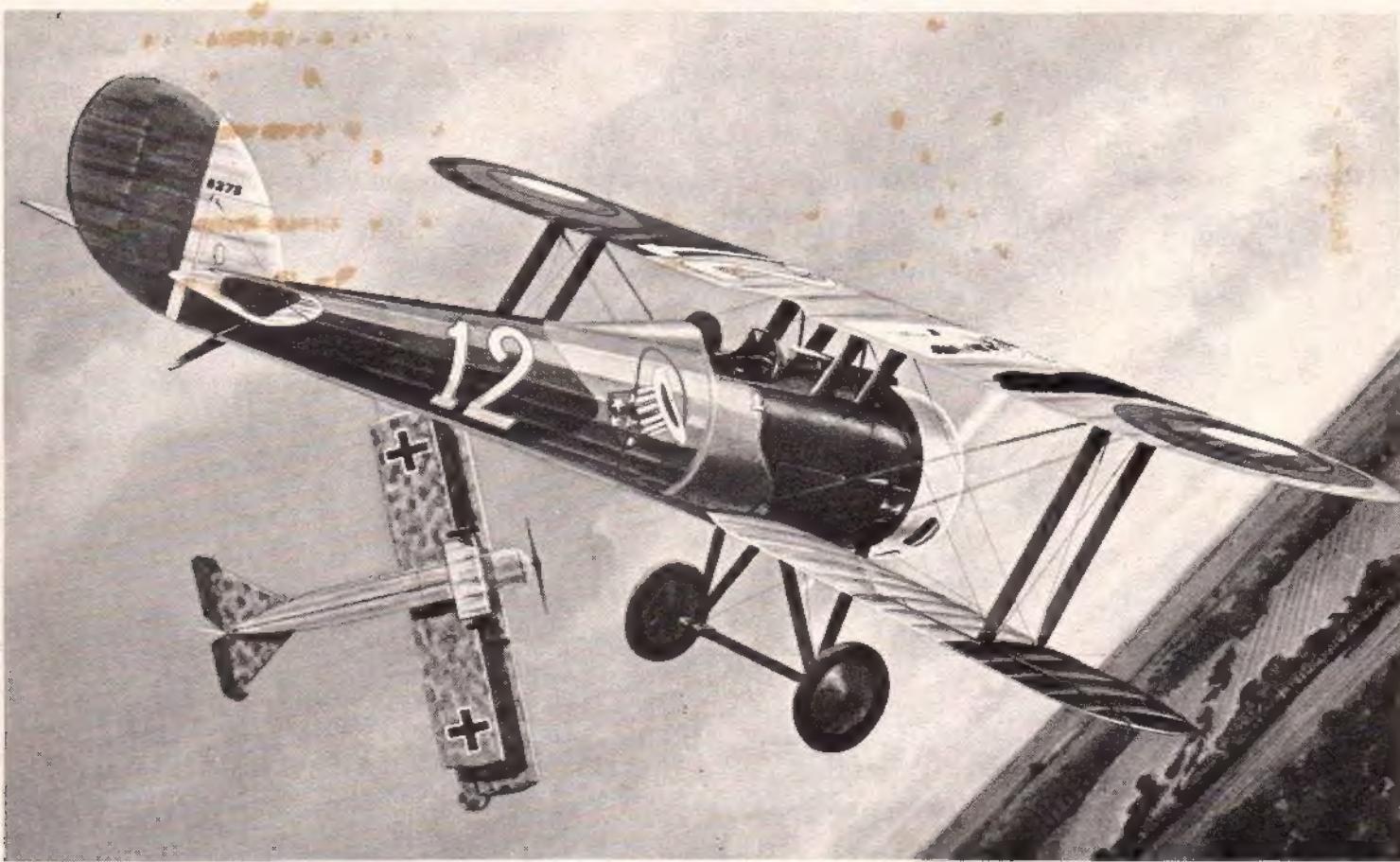
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